



# FACT SHEET



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## NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE

### INTRODUCTION

National Missile Defense (NMD) is a deployment readiness program that integrates and tests the key components (called Elements) of a National Missile Defense system. If deployed, NMD will protect all 50 States from limited attack by ballistic missiles from states of concern. As the result of the evolving threat, the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO) designed the NMD program to be flexible and evolutionary.

The U.S. traditionally has relied on the wide expanses of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to keep our homeland at arms length from the turmoil of global conflict. However, the proliferation of long range ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction to third world countries may negate much of this advantage and possibly deliver a serious blow to the national security of the United States.

### HISTORY

At present, only a few countries possess missiles that can strike the U.S., but the possibility that this number will increase cannot be ignored. Today, technology is spreading around the world at an astonishing rate, including technology dealing with ballistic missile development and, more ominously, with weapons of mass destruction.

Complementing this growing technological capability is the continuing intent among some regimes to harm the international system, particularly the U.S. and its allies. Furthermore, it is impossible to predict whether traditional notions of deterrence will operate under future conditions.

The need for flexibility in Defense Programs is not new. Since the 1970s, changes in defense missions and in the systems designed to implement them have occurred every few years. The evolution of the program through the last four changes (from 1987 to 1999) has changed NMD missions from a deterrence enhancing role against a massive threat, requiring large numbers of defense interceptors, to a protection role against small numbers of threats.

In 1996, the Department of Defense (DoD) established NMD as a Major Defense Acquisition and Deployment Readiness Program. To execute the program, BMDO established the NMD Joint Program Office (JPO) in 1997. With significant Army, Air Force and BMDO material contributions, the goal of the JPO is to integrate the various elements into a cost effective and operationally sound system designed to protect all 50 states from a ballistic missile attack.



The Ground Based Interceptor

### NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE- WHAT WE DO

The initial protection program (in the late '90s), called "3+3," was to develop, in three years, a NMD system capable of being deployed within three years after a deployment decision was made. In January 1999, the Secretary of Defense announced that the threat criteria established to trigger a deployment, would soon be met. Funds were programmed to move NMD from the development phase to a deployment phase should the program be directed to do so. The primary criteria for ordering the deployment include, but are not limited to: threat; technological readiness of a National Missile Defense system; and funding.

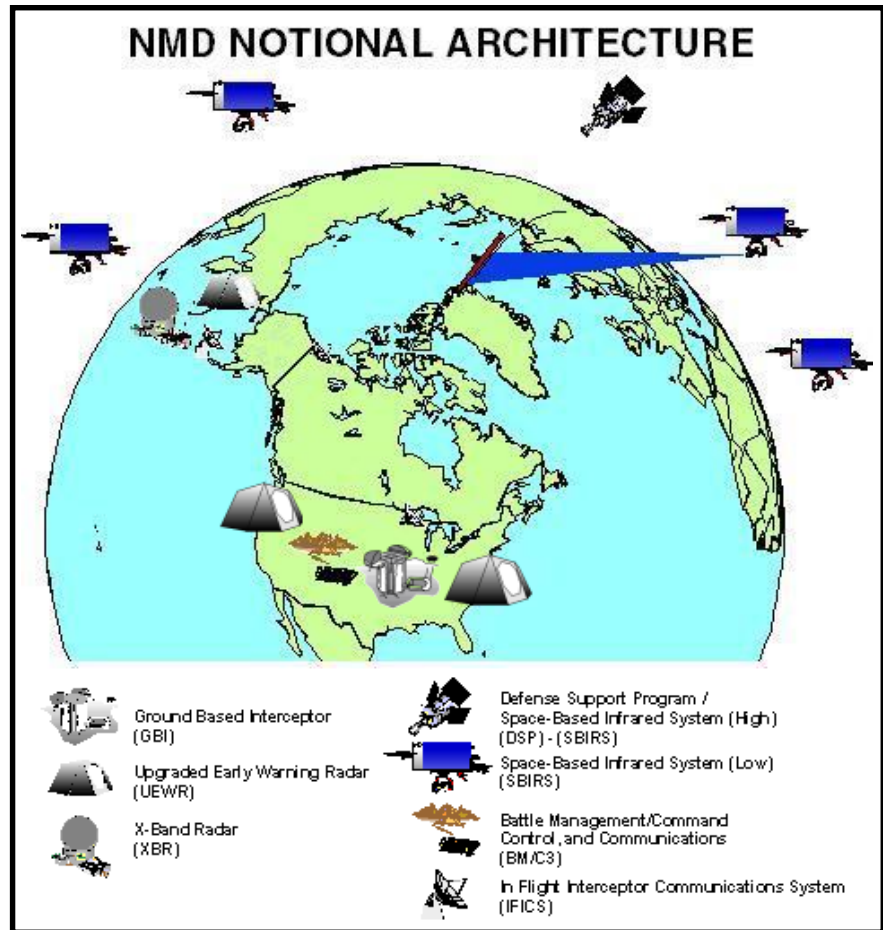
## NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE - WHO WE ARE

Since the National Missile Defense currently includes significant Army, Air Force and Ballistic Missile Defense Organization elements, DoD policy established a Joint Program Office (JPO) to provide the program manager with unambiguous authority and responsibility, and to create the management structure necessary to achieve multi-service interoperability. The JPO consists of personnel from all the military services, as well as Defense Department civilian employees.

The JPO is a federated organization that has a "flat" structure. Each project manager works directly for NMD JPO Program Executive Officer (PEO). The NMD PEO then reports directly to the Director of BMDO.

The JPO provides the NMD program with a centralized management facility to oversee its current phase. Given the variety of participating organizations, the JPO's existence is a vital element in ensuring the success for NMD. The JPO will provide the DoD and BMDO with the means to coordinate activities between the Services, allow for integration of new developments, and provide a balanced, joint approach to the entire program.

As a result of being a program that has high level visibility with the Administration and Congress, the JPO has been purposely elevated within the Office of the Secretary of Defense structure. Not only does this enable the JPO to be flexible and provide the most efficient centralized management, but it also facilitates the formation of the best available teams. These teams manage the NMD Program and have the ability to incorporate new and future subsystems developed by the Services. This system ensures an objective, balanced view that avoids single Service solutions while managing an acquisition/contracting strategy through the Lead System Integrator.



## NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE - WHERE WE ARE

JPO provides the NMD Program with a centralized management facility in Washington DC to oversee its current development phase. The overall management and integration function focus is key as the program elements are located all over the United States. The ground systems are an Army contribution to the program and are located in Huntsville, AL. The Battle Management/Command, Control and Communications element to include Early Warning Radar and Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) is a combination US Space Command and Air Force contribution with Element locations in Boston, MA, Colorado Springs, CO; Los Angeles, CA and Huntsville.

Ballistic Missile Defense Organization,  
External Affairs  
7100 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-7100  
(703) 697-8472